

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 017753
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 HA-05 /067 R

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IO/HR:WHEWITT(DRAFT)
O/UNP:RLBARRY
NEA/RA:HPRECHT(DRAFT)

-----111954 240811Z /17

R 232149Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SY

SUBJECT: KHANI CANDIDACY FOR ASIAN SEAT ON SUB-
COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION
OF MINORITIES

REFS: A)DAMASCUS 352; B)DAMASCUS 461

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT SUPPORT FOR KHANI CANDIDACY
WOULD BE A USEFUL POLITICAL GESTURE TO SYRIA AND THAT
KHANI IS WELL QUALIFIED. HOWEVER, IT IS STILL
RATHER PREMATURE TO OFFER A FIRM PROMISE OF SUPPORT.
ELECTION WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL LATE IN THE COMMISSION
SESSION, I.E., EARLY MARCH. WE ASSUME THAT ASIAN MEMBERS
WILL MAKE AN EFFORT TO AGREE ON AN ASIAN SLATE, AND WE DO
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NOT WANT TO BE IN THE POSITION OF SUPPORTING A CANDIDACY
WHICH MIGHT BE REJECTED BY THE ASIAN GROUP. FURTHERMORE,
UNQUALIFIED USG SUPPORT FOR KHANI COULD OPEN US UP TO
REQUESTS FOR FIRM COMMITMENTS FROM COUNTRIES SUCH AS
IRAN, WHICH HAS SIMILARLY ASKED FOR OUR SUPPORT.

2. REQUEST YOU MAKE QUALIFIED OFFER OF SUPPORT ALONG

FOLLOWING LINES:

SG HOLDS KHANI IN HIGH REGARD AND BELIEVES HIM TO
BE WELL QUALIFIED FOR SEAT ON THE SUB-COMMISSION.

-- WE ASSUME THAT THE ASIAN GROUP WILL MAKE AN EFFORT
-- WE ASSUME THAT THE ASIAN GROUP WILL MAKE AN EFFORT
TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AN ASIAN SLATE OF CANDIDATES
AND WE WILL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR USUAL PRACTICE,
SUPPORT SUCH A SLATE IF IT EMERGES. WE VERY MUCH
HOPE THAT KHANI WILL BE ON ANY AGREED SLATE.

-- IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREED ASIAN SLATE, THE USG
INTENDS TO SUPPORT THE KHANI CANDIDACY.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND SYRIA
OF OUR OWN INTEREST IN ADVANCING THE CANDIDACY OF
AMBASSADOR BEVERLY CARTER. CARTER HAS ALREADY SERVED
TWO TERMS ON SUB-COMMISSION AND HAS TAKEN A KEEN
PERSONAL INTEREST IN ITS WORK. WE ATTACH GREAT
IMPORTANCE TO HIS REELECTION AND HOPE THAT SYRIA WILL
GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO HIS CANDIDACY.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, DISCRIMINATION, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE017753
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RAPECK/CBQ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780035-0054
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780133/aaaabblb.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2af824e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DAMASCUS 352, 78 DAMASCUS 461
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3729628
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHANI CANDIDACY FOR ASIAN SEAT ON SUB- COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES
TAGS: SHUM, SY, (AL-KHANI, ABDULLAH)
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2af824e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014